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O. I. G. FORM 51-48

CLASSIFICATION [redacted] REPORT NO. [redacted]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 30 Sept 1948

SUBJECT Soviet Scientific Expeditions--area, scope, and progress.

NO. OF PAGES 6

PLACE ACQUIRED Monitored broadcasts available to FBIB, Washington, D.C.

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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DATE ACQUIRED 1 April - 22 September 1948

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Soviet Radio Broadcasts

EVALUATE

INTRODUCTION

This report, prepared in response to a specific request and based on monitored Soviet broadcasts of the past six months, presents all of the available monitored information pertinent to the subject of current Soviet scientific expeditions. Most of this (obviously limited) information has appeared in very brief items which rarely elaborate details of the expedition(s) or research to which reference is made. Routes of expeditions are never given. Only the areas of research are indicated; and often these are only generally identified. Usually, also, references to the scope of the research are limited to general statements. Reports on the results or progress of specific projects infrequently appear; and when they do, it is again in quite general terms.

(In the following tabular presentation, the figures in parentheses refer to the date of the Soviet broadcast from which the particular information was taken.)

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AREA OF RESEARCH	SCOPE OF RESEARCH	RESULTS OR PROGRESS
ARMENIA	Geological research (4/26)	Discovery of pumice and quartz sand deposits. Study of new deposits of non-ferrous metals
AZERBAIJAN	Research in potential oil deposits (4/26) Study of flora; investigation of water and other resources; experiments with utilization of oil industry by-products as fertilizers (5/24) Study to introduce new varieties of cotton plants (8/16)	
Lower Nagorny Karabakh) Kura-Araks Depression) Alpine Azerbaijan) Caspian Area	Agro-chemical and morphological research (4/26) 20 expeditions to explore mud volcanoes and their connection with oil-bearing strata (5/24); to investigate area for new oil deposits by means of artificial earthquakes caused by explosions on land and in the sea and registered by mobile seismographic stations (4/28)	
Black Sea coast	Exploration "for areas to be cultivated in order to provide food for local health resorts." (4/22)	
CAUCASUS	Utilization of minerals "found on the northern slopes of the Caucasian Range." (4/22)	
GEORGIA	Problems connected with construction of iron and steel plant in new town of Rustavi (4/26) Investigation of water power resources (4/26) Agro-technical research (4/26)	
MOLDAVIA	20 expeditions in "various districts" of the Republic; compilation of a soil map; study of timber resources; studies in the field of horticulture and vinology; investigation by power engineers of the Dniester and Prud Rivers. (6/20)	

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AREA OF RESEARCH	SCOPE OF RESEARCH	RESULTS OR PROGRESS
CENTRAL ASIA.....	Exploration of "new suitable areas for cotton-growing (7/29)	
Aral-Caspian plain.....	"Aral-Caspian expedition" working on problem of reclaiming deserts of Central Asia and of utilizing waters of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya flowing into the Aral Sea "to irrigate at least 10,000,000 hectares on the Aral-Caspian plain." (7/22; 7/29)	
	"Kara Kum Project" (underway for 9 months at time of report) investigating future canal projects "to make fertile vast area of 3 or 4 million hectares of uncultivated land" (4/22); study of a canal site between the Amu Darya and the Murgab River (8/25)	..... Expediency of digging canal between Amu Darya and Murgab confirmed.
KAZAKHSTAN.....	Astro-botanical research, headed by founder of this new science, Tikhov, in high mountain regions of Republic. Tikhov's theory "was first to prove that planet Mars possesses vegetation similar to the plant life on Earth, notably in its arctic and Alpine regions." Aim of expedition--to study Juniper, Edelweiss, and other plants similar to those growing on Mars. (9/18)	..... Plants photographed with help of ultra-violet and infra-red rays; spectrographic pictures made. "New phenomena hitherto unknown to science relative to the fluorescence of flowers discovered.
Betpak-Dala Desert.....	Expedition to study the reclamation of tracts of the "Hungry Steppe" for pasture land. The "station has well-equipped laboratories for veterinary work, irrigation, and soil science, and a herd of 15,000 for experiments." The expedition is to remain in the desert "throughout the year." (4/22)	
Altai Mountains.....	Study of polymetallic Altai ores (4/26)	..... "Effective methods of extracting rare metals from Altai ores; ... found that 6 to 7 times more metal can be extracted than heretofore."

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TADJIKISTAN.....	Investigation, headed by Prof. Alexander Kirichenko, of the Republic's fauna. (8/16)	Returned with "a valuable collection which, after being studied, will be submitted to the Zoological Museum of the USSR Academy of Sciences."
Pamir region.....	Study of frequent earthquakes in the mountain region near the Pamir. (One of 12 "big expeditions dispatched this year to various districts of the country by the Geophysics Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences.") (6/17)	
TURKMENIA.....	22 scientific expeditions--geo-chemical study of oil-bearing areas. (6/5)	
Kopet-Dag foothills.....	Research in geological structure of Kopet Dag Range foothills. (6/5)	
BASHKIRIA.....	"Prospecting bureau" investigating question of exploiting the oil fields. (7/31)	
SIBERIA.....	"Several expeditions" of astronomers and astrophysicists to observe solar eclipse of 9 May 1948. Observation centers in Vladivostok and several other points in Siberia. (5/8)	
Krasnoyarsk & Miniussinsk area, Tuva AR...	Search for minerals, particularly iron ore; and research for improvement of agriculture. (4/22)	
Yakutsk Province.....	Geologist Zolnikov in charge of study of soil and flora studies in center of Province. (4/27)	
Lena-Aldan watershed.....	Expedition, led by Dr. Kashin, to lakes of Lena-Aldan watershed. (4/27)	
Lena River.....	Study of fish life under direction of Biologist Mukhomediaov. (4/27)	
Ussai Taiga.....	Astro-physical study of the so-called Sikhote-Alinsk Meteorite, headed by Fontom, magnetologist of Institute of Geophysics of USSR Ac. of Sc. (6/2)	
Irkutsk Province.....	Geological research. (4/17)	Discovery "of an industrial coal strata in the Galumets region.
Lake Baikal.....	"Extensive research" of the world's deepest water reservoir, under direction of the Limnological Laboratory of the USSR Ac. of Sc. Other lakes of the country also being studied. (6/21)	

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AREA OF RESEARCH	SCOPE OF RESEARCH	RESULTS OF PROGRESS
SAKHALIN.....	Establishment of a new reserve for preservation of the rich forests and animals of central & southern Sakhalin; to comprise 270,000 square kilometers. (6/10)	
ESTHONIA.....	20 expeditions to study the "Republic's natural wealth and history"; survey of 50,000 hectares of peat lands for new briquette factories; two soil-study expeditions in northern Esthonia; expeditions "to study the economics, history, and development of Esthonian farming,... experimental and clinical medicine, archeology, literature, and language." (6/12)	Discovery of lime deposits which, added to the soil, "will permit an increase in annual harvest yields by 100,000 tons in the southern areas of the Republic alone."
LITHUANIA.....	Exploration of peat deposits. (4/26)	

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Archeological studies: Reported underway in the Murmansk area, Karelia, the Central Urals, on the Klyazma River near the textile center of Orekhovo-Zuevo in Moscow Province, and on the slope of (Malaya Gora) near the town of Mukacevo (Munkacz) in Transcarpathia.

Iron Ore discoveries: Large deposits discovered in the Kola Penninsula by Geologist Shifrin (6/6); new deposits discovered close to the summit of the Vyaokaya Mountain near Nizhni-Tagil in the Urals (8/15); high-grade deposits discovered "after several powerful explosions" in the Dashkensan mines in Azerbaijan. (8/6)

Coal Deposits: New coal field, suitable for open-pit mining, discovered in the Kuznetsk Basin (6/5); new coal mines dug in the Moscow Province, the Urals, and Central Asia (7/15).

Natural Gas: Large-scale prospecting for natural gas reported under way in Daghestan, the northern Caucasus, the Ukraine, and in the Kuibyshev-Saratov-Stalingrad sector of the Volga Valley (9/22); "exceedingly rich" natural gas deposits discovered in the Opara and Dashava areas in the Carpathian foothills, (8/26) and "a new and powerful region for the output and processing of natural gas has sprung up" in the Komi Autonomous Republic (9/22).

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